



Managing the Risks

**A Risk Management Presentation for
South Texas College Student Organizations**

Purpose of this presentation

- **Legislation:** Effective September 1, 2007, the 80th Texas Legislature enacted HB 2639/SB 1138 (Texas Education Code Section 51.9361) regarding risk management education for members and advisors of student organizations registered at postsecondary educational institutions. Under the law, it is mandatory for representatives of registered student organizations to complete a risk management educational program.
- This presentation will familiarize leaders of STC student organizations and students with proper risk assessment and management issues.
- The following information surveys certain risk management topics. For additional assistance on a specific issue, please contact [Student Activities and Wellness](#) at 872 3530.



What is Risk Management?



- Risk Management considers the potential and perceived risk involved in student events and programs.
- It includes monitoring organization activities and taking both proactive action and corrective steps to minimize accidental injury and/or loss.



Risk Items



- Alcohol
- Hazing
- Sexual Harassment & Misconduct
- Student Travel
- Fire and Safety Issues
- Accommodations for Students with Disabilities
- Behavior (on or off campus)



Alcohol

FACTS, National statistics indicate:

- 1,700 students between 18-24 die each year from alcohol related injuries.
- 599,000 students between 18-24 are injured each year because of alcohol related activities.
- About 25 percent of students report academic problems associated with drinking.
- One third of students admit to having missed at least one class due to alcohol/drug use.
- 2.1 million students drove under the influence of alcohol.
- 31% of men, 23% of women participated in drinking games (17% men, 9% women reported getting sick or passing out).
- 150,000 students develop alcohol related health problems (almost 2 percent of these students have attempted suicide).
- On average a student spends \$900 on alcohol per year!
- The minimum age for purchasing and possessing alcohol is 21.



Alcohol



POLICY:

- **STC reserves the right to take necessary and appropriate action to protect the safety and interests of the College community. Such action may include administering sanctions against students for violating the Student Code of Conduct or College policy, whether such violation takes place on-campus or off-campus.**
- **Misconduct includes (but not limited to), use or possession of an intoxicating beverage or being intoxicated. Illegal possession, use, sale, or distribution of any quantity, whether usable or not, any drug, narcotic, or controlled substance or being under the influence of said drug, narcotic, or controlled substance.**



Alcohol

MANAGING THE RISKS:

Make sure your organization follows all STC and Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) regulations:

Student Rights and Responsibilities and Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission

- Provide an alcohol education program for your members.
- If someone in your organization has problems with alcohol, know your resources on campus such as the Counseling office.
- Best advise.....Avoid alcohol altogether during student organization events on or off campus!



Hazing

“The law defines hazing as an intentional, knowing, or reckless act, occurring on or off campus of an educational institution, by one person or acting with others, directed against a student, that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of said student.”



Hazing



FACTS, National statistics indicate:

- 74% of varsity athletes reported being hazed.
- 73% of fraternity/sorority members reported being hazed.
- 64% of club sports members reported being hazed.
- 56% of performing arts members reported being hazed.
- 28% of academic organization members reported being hazed.
- 20% of honor society members reported being hazed.
- 25% of students believed an advisor or coach knew of hazing.
- 47% of students arrive at college having experienced at least one hazing incident.



Hazing



POLICY:

- STC reserves the right to take necessary and appropriate action to protect the safety and interests of the College community. Such action may include administering sanctions against students for violating the Student Code of Conduct or College policy, whether such violation takes place on-campus or off-campus. Criminal charges and University sanctions may be applied to both the individual and the student organization for hazing offenses.
- STC has a ZERO TOLERANCE Policy on Hazing. Hazing includes (but not limited to): Intentionally or recklessly subjecting any person to risk of bodily harm or severe emotional distress, or causing or encouraging any person to commit an act that would be a violation of law or College regulations for the purpose of initiating, promoting, fostering, or confirming any form of affiliation with a student group or organization.



Hazing

MANAGING THE RISKS:

- Hazing should not be viewed as a tradition to pass on to new members.
- If you suspect a task or event is hazing related, report it immediately to STC's Center for [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#).



Sexual Harassment & Misconduct

Sexual Harassment is unwelcome conduct of a sexual nature, including but not limited to unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical harassment of a sexual nature when submission of such conduct creates a hostile environment, is based on power differentials (quid pro quo) or is retaliation against an individual.

Sexual misconduct includes, but is not limited to, behaviors often described as sexual harassment, non-consensual sexual contact/intercourse, sexual exploitation, sexual violence, rape, stalking, and intimate partner violence, also known as dating violence and or domestic violence.



Sexual Harassment & Misconduct



FACTS, National statistics indicate:

- 57% of rapes occur on a date.
- Only 10-16% of rapes are reported to police.
- Women between the ages of 16 and 19 are 3.5 times more likely to be a victim.
- Sexual assault is more common at parties and social gatherings.
- At least 1 in 4 women in college will become a victim of a sexual assault or some form of sexual harassment.
- 80% of sexual assaults on college campuses are committed by an acquaintance of the victim.
- 50% of the sexual assaults involved alcohol as a contributing factor.



Sexual Harassment & Misconduct

POLICY:

- Any form of Sexual Harassment and/or Misconduct is prohibited. It is a violation of policy and the law, including Title IX, to commit these acts or attempt to commit them. Sexual misconduct can occur in any sex or gender configuration regardless of sex and gender identity whether it be an employee or student.
- Any employee or student who is found to have engaged in sexual misconduct (which includes behaviors often described as sexual harassment) shall be subject to appropriate disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal or expulsion and may be prosecuted under State law. This policy shall be applied without regard to the sexual orientation, gender and/or gender identity of the individual(s) involved.
- [Harassment, Discrimination, And Sexual Misconduct Policy 4216](#)



Sexual Harassment & Misconduct

MANAGING THE RISKS:

- Educate students on safety at social events such as not leaving drinks unattended.
- Encourage students to use a “buddy” system where one can alert his/her buddy upon feeling threatened or uncomfortable in a situation.
- Promote constant awareness of surroundings.
- For more information please contact STC’s Center for [Student Rights and Responsibilities](#) at 872-2180
- Additional resources can be found at www.rainn.org or call 1-800-656 HOPE.



Student Travel

Student travel incorporates any travel planned or sponsored by the Student Organization or its members as part of the organizations' activities.

POLICY 3620: [“College Sanctioned Travel for Students”](#)

“Students driving privately-owned vehicles for organized student travel must have a valid Texas or other state driver license and possess personal automobile insurance coverage as mandated by the state of Texas, and their vehicles must have a current state inspection and registration. Students who drive their privately owned vehicles assume responsibility for the liability for themselves and the passengers traveling in their vehicle”

“STC prohibits the rental of 15 passenger vans for reasons of safety and liability”

Click here for additional [Travel Procedures](#)



Student Travel

FACTS, National statistics indicate:

- Driver inattention, cell phone usage and fatigue are contributing factors in over 46% of college student accidents.
- People aged 16 – 24 were involved in 28% of all alcohol related traffic accidents.
- In 2006, 13,470 people died in crashes involving someone with a blood alcohol level of .08 or above.



Student Travel

MANAGING THE RISKS:

- Seat belts are required for ALL the occupants – it's the law!
- Alcohol and other illegal substances, strictly prohibited.
- Only STC Faculty/Staff/Advisors can drive rental vehicles and they are required to have a valid Drivers License and car insurance.
- For trips that are over 4 hours long, there should more than one driver.
- Driving between the hours of 11 p.m. and 5 a.m. is not allowed.
- Do not text or use the phone while operating the vehicle. If you need to use the phone, use a hands-free device but never attempt to text message while driving.
- Obey the posted speed limits at all times to ensure safety and always plan ahead for a long trip.
- Highly encouraged to use/fill out the [Student Travel Code of Conduct](#).



Fire and Safety Issues

State law prohibits the possession of any explosive, firearm, imitation firearm, ammunition or hazardous chemicals on South Texas College's property.

POLICY includes, but not limited to:

- Unauthorized use or possession of ammunition, firearms, or other weapons, including knives.
- Unauthorized possession, ignition, or detonation of any explosive device, fireworks, liquid, or object which is flammable, or which could cause damage by fire or explosion to persons or property.
- Interfering with, obstructing or disrupting police or fire responses. This includes but is not limited to tampering with, impairing, disabling, or misusing fire protection systems such as smoke detectors, fire extinguishers, sprinklers, or alarms; failing to evacuate during a fire alarm; resisting arrest; failing to abide by the directions of police, security, fire or other emergency personnel.



Fire and Safety Issues

FACTS: National statistics indicate:

- Between 2002 and 2005, 39 students were killed and almost 400 were injured in on-campus fires.
- In over 50% of college fire fatalities, alcohol was a contributing factor.
- Space heaters contribute to 73% of all fire-related deaths on college campuses.



Fire and Safety Issues



MANAGING THE RISKS:

- When planning for an event, make sure the venue is large enough to handle the expected attendance.
- Make sure during organizational meetings and events that all entrances and exits are unobstructed.
- Do not overload electrical circuits and remember to always use surge protectors.
- NEVER IGNORE A FIRE ALARM – “Oh it’s just another drill”.
- If you suspect or know of anyone who may be in possession of any illegal weapons on campus, please report it immediately to STC Police at 872-2589 or call 911.



Accommodations for Students with Disabilities



FACTS:

- 11% of undergraduate students report having a disability.
- Students with disabilities are those who reported that they had one or more of the following conditions:
 - Specific Learning Disability
 - Visual Disability
 - Deaf/Hard of Hearing
 - Speech/Communication Disorder
 - Physical Disability
 - Chronic Health Condition



Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

POLICY:

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provides equal opportunities for persons with disabilities.

RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES. South Texas College does not discriminate on the basis of a disability in the areas of admission, accessibility, treatment, and employment. Individuals with disabilities, as defined under the law, who are otherwise qualified to meet the institution's academic and employment requirements will be provided with services and resources accordingly. Students and employees must submit the appropriate documentation of the disability by a qualified professional whose license or credentials are appropriate to diagnose. For students with disabilities, reasonable accommodations are made to allow the individual student to be successful at STC. Accommodations are provided for those students who submit the documentation of the disability by a qualified professional whose license or credentials are appropriate to diagnose the disability. STC supports efforts in making the campus more accessible and encourages individuals with disabilities to participate in all activities. Students seeking assistance should contact the Office of Counseling & Disability Services. Employees should contact the Human Resources Department.



Accommodations for Students with Disabilities

MANAGING THE RISK:

- Student organizations may not deny membership on any basis prohibited by applicable law, including but not limited to, race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, *disability*, or veteran status.
- STC will provide a reasonable accommodation necessary for members of student organizations to participate in the sponsored campus activities of their organization.
- The student must self identify and provide the request to the student organization with adequate advance notice, normally at least 10 working days, but possibly longer depending on the nature of the activity and complexity of securing the accommodation.
- The student must be actively registered with the Office of Counseling & Disability Services at the time of the request. Student Activities and Organizations will confirm that the student is currently active/taking classes.



Behavior

Whether you are on or off campus, keep in mind that you are a representative of your student organization as well as STC. Negative actions like fighting, vandalism, arrests, etc. will invariably reflect poorly on your record as well as possibly tarnishing the reputation of your organization/STC and could lead to sanctions.

POLICY includes, but not limited to:

Prohibited behaviors such as disorderly conduct, misrepresentation of self, destruction of STC/hotel property, etc.

As an STC student and member of a student organization, you are expected to abide by the provisions set forth in the [Code of Student Conduct](#)



Behavior

MANAGING THE RISKS:

- Abide by all STC policies.
- Act professionally, responsibly and respectfully.
- Remember that your organization or STC can place sanctions on you in cases where behavior has become an issue.
- While conducting your Student Organization activities, whether on campus or not, you are still an STC student/faculty/staff and are representing South Texas College.



Other Risks



- Organizations conducting activities without the presence of an advisor.
- Higher risk type activities, example; whitewater rafting, gun range, etc.
- Traveling with non STC students (Only current STC students should travel)

MANAGING THE RISKS:

All efforts should be made to supervise and protect the students. Take precautions and use reasonable care.



Conclusion

- Advisors, please present a synopsis of the information from this presentation to all members of your student organization within 30 days or contact Student Activities and Wellness for a presentation.
- Knowing your responsibilities as an STC student/advisor is important in keeping you and members of your organization safe. We appreciate your involvement and wish you success while conducting your organizations' activities.
- For more information on resources or questions about any part of this presentation, please do not hesitate to contact:

-Alberto R. Coria: Coordinator of Student Activities & First Year Experience:
872-5693/arcoria@southtexascollege.edu

-Or visit: <http://life.southtexascollege.edu/>

- [**Click here to confirm your participation in this training**](#)
(You will need to sign in with your STC Username and Password)

